

Message Text

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44

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 L-03 H-03 HEW-08 SCA-01

INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /039 W

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O 271212Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6352

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 5272

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, CI (HORMAN, CHARLES)

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

REFS: SANTIAGO 5128; STATE 211447

1. WHEN CONSULTED ABOUT POSSIBLE SHIPMENT OF REMAINS OCT. 26, MORGUE REPORTED BODY WAS EXHUMED OCTOBER 18 FOR ATTEMPT AT POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION AS CHARLES HORMAN. (THIS DONE WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH OR KNOWLEDGE OF EMBASSY). MORGUE ADVISES THAT BODY IS IN EXTREMELY ADVANCED STATE OF DECOMPOSITION (WORD "PUTREFACTION" USED). MORGUE OFFICIALS NOTE THAT BODY REMAINED AT MORGUE WITHOUT ANY MEANS OF PRESERVATION FOR 15 DAYS, WAS THEN BURIED FOR 15 MORE BEFORE EXHUMATION, AND HAS BEEN ANOTHER EIGHT DAYS AT MORGUE, WITH ONLY LATTER TIME UNDER REFRIGERATION. OFFICIALS POINT OUT THERE TWO ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN SENDING BODY TO U.S. -- CHILEAN PERMISSION FROM DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION, AND U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH PERMISSION FOR ENTRY. AS TO FIRST, SANITATION DETP. ADVISES EMBASSY THAT IT CANNOT AUTHORIZE SHIPMENT IN PRESENT STATE, AND THAT ALTERNATIVES ARE CREMATION (AND SHIPMENT OF ASHES) OR REDUCTION TO SKELETON (AND SHIPMENT OF BONES). SANITATION SAYS THERE NO POSSIBILITY OF EXEMPTION, BUT EMBASSY WILL CHECK WITH MINISTER OF HEALTH IF REQUEST CONSISTENT, OF COURSE, WITH USPHS DECISION. ON ISSUE OF ENTRY INTO U.S., UNDERTAKING FIRM WHICH HANDLES MOST OF INTERNATIONAL SHIPMENTS BELIEVES THAT USPHS WOULD NOT ADMIT UNEMBALMED (AND IT NOW CONSIDERED IMPOSSIBLE TO EMBALM)

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BODY EXCEPT IN SPECIAL VACUMIZED CONTAINER, WHICH NOT REPEAT NOT

AVAILABLE IN CHILE. (CAN DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATE WITH USPHS?)

2. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT ATTEMPT
DISSUADE MR. HORMAN FROM THIS REQUEST. HE TOLD CONSUL ON TWO
OCCASIONS THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE IN IDEA OF SHIPPING BODIES AND
WAS STRONGLY INCLINED TO HAVE BODY CREMATED AND ASHES INTERRED
IN CHILE, OR SIMPLY TO LEAVE BODY BURIED HERE. HAS JOYCE HORMAN,
WHO IS REALLY NEXT-OF-KIN, ALSO ASKED THAT BODY BE RETURNED TO
U.S.?

3. REQUIREMENT FOR CREMATION OF EXHUMED BODIES IS NOT
CHILEAN LAW BUT RATHER FIRMLY-HELD AND STRICTLY-ENFORCED POLICY
OF DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION. DISPOSITION REPORT BEING AMENDED.
DAVIS

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